

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DFSB KOLLECTIVE CO. LTD., et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.
YOUSUF BOURNE, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No.: 11-1046 PJH (JSC)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE:
JURISDICTION AND SERVICE OF
PROCESS ON DEFENDANT YOUSUF
BOURNE (Dkt. No. 30)**

Now pending before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion for Default Judgment against Defendant Yousuf Bourne. (Dkt. No. 30.) Prior to evaluating the merits of a motion for a default judgment, the Court has an affirmative duty to determine that it has subject matter jurisdiction over the action and personal jurisdiction over the Defendant. In re Tuli, 172 F.3d 707, 712 (9th Cir. 1999). In addition, the Court is required to "assess the adequacy of the service of process on the party against whom default is requested." Sanrio Co., Ltd. v. J.I.K. Accessories, 2012 WL 1366611, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 19, 2012)(quoting Bd. of Trustees of the N. Cal. Sheet Metal Workers v. Peters, No. 00-0395 VRW, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 19065, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 29, 2000)).

A. Personal Jurisdiction

In this case, Plaintiffs are South Korean corporations, and Bourne, the only named Defendant, purportedly resides in Australia. Plaintiffs allege that this Court has personal

1 jurisdiction because “a) each of the Defendants or their respective agents are doing business in
2 this District and b) . . . a substantial part of the wrongful acts committed by Defendants have
3 occurred in . . . [the] Northern District of California.” (Complaint ¶6.)

4 Personal jurisdiction is evaluated under California law where, as here, it is not
5 authorized by federal statute. Mavrix Photo, Inc. v. Brand Techs., Inc., 647 F.3d 1218, 1223
6 (9th Cir. 2011). Because California’s long-arm statute is coextensive with federal due process
7 requirements, the jurisdictional analyses under California law and federal due process are the
8 same. Schwarzenegger v. Fred Martin Motor Co., 374 F.3d 797, 801 (9th Cir. 2004). The
9 Due Process Clause requires that nonresident defendants such as Yousuf Bourne have certain
10 “minimum contacts with the forum state, such that the exercise of personal jurisdiction does
11 not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice. Int’l Shoe Co. v.
12 Washington, 326 U.S. 310, 316 (1945).

13 Personal jurisdiction can be general or specific. The “exacting standard” required to
14 establish general jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant is met only when the defendant
15 engages in “continuous and systematic general business contacts . . . that approximate
16 physical presence in the forum state.” Schwarzenegger, 374 F.3d at 801 (internal citations and
17 quotations omitted). To analyze specific jurisdiction, the Ninth Circuit has articulated a
18 three-part test to evaluate the sufficiency of a defendant’s minimum contacts within the
19 forum:

20 (1) the non-resident defendant must purposefully direct his activities or consummate
21 some transaction with the forum or resident thereof; or perform some act by which he
22 purposefully avails himself of the privilege of conducting activities in the forum,
23 thereby invoking the benefits and protections of its laws; (2) the claim must be one
which arises out of or relates to the defendant’s forum-related activities; and (3) the
exercise of jurisdiction must comport with fair play and substantial justice, i.e. it must
be reasonable.

24 Schwarzenegger, 374 F.3d at 802 (quoting Lake v. Lake, 817 F.2d 1416, 1421 (9th Cir.1987)).

25 For website activities, “the likelihood that personal jurisdiction can be constitutionally
26 exercised is directly proportionate to the nature and quality of commercial activity that an
27 entity conducts over the Internet.” Cybersell, Inc. v. Cybersell, Inc., 130 F.3d 414, 418 (9th
28 Cir. 1997)(quoting Zippo Mfg. Co. v. Zippo Dot Com, Inc., 952 F.Supp. 1119, 1124 (W.D.

1 Pa. 1997)). “Creating a [web]site, like placing a product into the stream of commerce, may
2 be felt nationwide—or even worldwide—but, without more, it is not an act purposefully
3 directed toward the forum state.” Id. For interactive websites, as alleged here, the “level of
4 interactivity and commercial nature of the exchange of information that occurs on the web-
5 site” determines whether “sufficient contacts exist to warrant the exercise of jurisdiction.” Id.
6 (quoting Zippo Mfg. Co., 952 F.Supp. at 1124)(internal quotation omitted). Factors
7 considered in this analysis include, among others, “the number of ‘hits’ received by a web
8 page from residents in the forum state and . . . other evidence that Internet activity was
9 directed at, or bore fruit in, the forum state.” Id. at 419; see also Brayton Purcell LLP v.
10 Recordon & Recordon, 606 F.3d 1124, 1128-31 (9th Cir. 2010) (discussing personal
11 jurisdiction for website activity).

12 With respect to personal jurisdiction over Yousuf Bourne specifically, the Complaint
13 alleges that Plaintiffs are “informed and believe that Bourne conducts business through
14 websites located at www.bww2.com and forums.bww2.com/index and does business in this
15 judicial district through accounts on these shared online platforms, among other places.”
16 (Complaint ¶ 17.) The basis for this belief is not stated in the Complaint, and though Exhibit
17 G to Plaintiffs’ Motion for Default Judgment claims to establish Yousuf Bourne as the owner
18 of www.bww2.com, the attached subpoena response references an IP address and not the
19 website in question and does not link the date of Bourne’s purported site ownership with the
20 timeframe of the alleged illegal activity. (Dkt. No. 30 at 179.) Scant details are provided
21 about other factors that play into jurisdiction, such as which contested conduct occurred in
22 California, the manner in which the connection to California was determined, and the
23 particular ties that Yousuf Bourne—as opposed to the other unnamed Defendants—has to the
24 actions that allegedly occurred in California.

25 **B. Service of Process on Yousuf Bourne**

26 Plaintiffs assert that Defendant was served a summons and complaint via substituted
27 service by having an Australian process server leave a copy of the summons and other
28 documents at Bourne’s home address. (Dkt. No. 18.) This Court “does not have jurisdiction

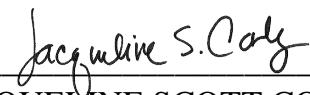
1 over a defendant unless the defendant has been served properly under Fed. R. Civ. P. 4.”
2 Direct Mail Specialists, Inc. v. Eclat Computerized Technologies, Inc., 840 F.2d 685, 688 (9th
3 Cir. 1988). Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(f)(3) states that an individual in a foreign
4 country may be served by 1) “any international agreed means of service,” like “those
5 authorized by the Hague Convention,” 2) “as prescribed by the foreign country’s law for
6 service in that country in an action in its courts of general jurisdiction,” or 3) by another
7 means ordered by the court and “not prohibited by international agreement.” Neither
8 Plaintiffs’ Motion for Entry of Default by the Court (Dkt. No. 21) nor the pending Motion for
9 Default Judgment explain how the substituted service effected satisfies Rule 4(f)(3).

10 **CONCLUSION**

11 Accordingly, the Court orders Plaintiffs to show cause as to 1) how this Court has
12 personal jurisdiction over Yousuf Bourne, and 2) whether Yousuf Bourne has been properly
13 served in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(f)(3). Plaintiffs’ response shall
14 be filed on or before May 21, 2012. The hearing currently scheduled for May 10, 2012 is
15 continued to June 7, 2012 at 9 a. m.

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17 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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19 Dated: May 7, 2012

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JACQUELINE SCOTT CORLEY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE